

GENUINE
LETTERS

BETWEEN

Alderman Nathaniel Kane,

AND

Mr, Charles Lucas,

CONCERNING

The Purchase of the MILLS at
Inland Bridge.

Published by Order of Alderman *KANE*.

The SECOND EDITION, published at the
Request of several of the Citizens.

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P R E F A C E.

SO ME Preface may be thought necessary, and a very short one will suffice to introduce the following Letters to publick View. It is full as contrary to my Inclination, as it is out of my way, to engage in such Disputes; the Vindication of my own Character, without any Intention to injure or criminate Mr. Lucas, was my sole Motive for applying to him; and my Fellow-Citizens may judge of the Candour of his Heart, by perusing the very extraordinary Answers I have had from him. Rant and Drollery are not my Talent; and I cannot help looking with Contempt upon any Man, who treats a Subject so serious as a wounded Character with Sneers, and Attempts to be witty; when, by a plain Answer to a plain Question, he could have satisfied the Publick, and have done me Justice.

Since therefore Mr. Lucas hath not the Honesty, if he is conscious that he was mistaken or misinformed, to acknowledge and retract his Error; nor the Courage to avow and support his Charge; I hope the Reader will indulge me when I solemnly assure him, that Mr. Darby, the then Proprietor of the Mills, (since deceased) never was indebted to me, or to the Bank in which I am concerned, one single Farthing; neither had I any sort of Acquaintance with him, previous to the Treaty about the Purchase of these Mills for the Use of the City; nor had he ever transacted any Business with our House: And his Son, who is now alive, hath assured me, that neither he nor his
 Father

Father ever offered them to sale, nor were ever in Treaty about selling them to any Person whatever, until they sold them to the City; and let Mr. Lucas disprove one Tittle of this, if he can.

Altho' it be not my present Business to enquire, whether the City made an advantageous Bargain, or not, in the Purchase of the Mills; yet it is evident, that since the Supply of Water, we have received from them, the Inhabitants of the City have not been in the Distress they severely felt every dry Summer before: And give me Leave to add, that the Corporation have been very considerable Gainers by the Purchase.

March 23, 1748.

NATHAN. KANE.

LETTERS

LETTERS

BETWEEN

Alderman Kane,

AND

Mr. Charles Lucas.

LETTER I.

Alderman Kane, to Mr. Lucas.

March 14, 1748.

S I R,

I HAVE been informed, that in some of the Speeches you have made to the several Corporations, and particularly to the Weavers, you were pleased to animadvert upon the Purchase which the City made of the Mills at *Island-Bridge*; and among other Things asserted, that *altho' the said Mills had been offered in several Ceffee-houses for about 1800 l. yet a certain Alderman, to whom a Sum of Money was owing by the Proprietor, influenced the City to give 3500 l. for them, in order to secure the said Debt.*

By what Means it hath come to pass, I cannot possibly find out; yet, to my great Surprize, I have been informed, that the Town has generally

rally looked upon me as the Alderman you intended.

Conscious of my own Innocence, I remained quiet and easy; satisfied that a very little Time and Recollection would convince the Publick, that you neither did, nor could, intend this Charge for me: But hearing that the Story is still told, my Name still tacked to it, and that it hath made some disadvantageous Impressions on many of my Acquaintance and Fellow-Citizens, that I should continue silent under such an Imputation, if I was wholly innocent, I am obliged, in Vindication of my own Character, to call upon you to declare, whether I am the Alderman you intended, or whether I am not? This is a fair, plain Question, which I ask without a View of doing you any Injury, and you cannot refuse to answer, without doing me Injustice.

If you say you did not mean me, I shall publish your Declaration to my Fellow-Citizens, in my own Vindication, and shall neither give you or myself any farther Trouble; but if you say you did, I call upon you to make good your Charge, which I absolutely deny, and am willing to stake whatever Share of Credit, or Character, I am entitled to, upon the Issue of such an Inquiry.

A severe Fit of the Gout hath prevented this Application, for some Time past; and as it is a matter which you can quickly determine, I hope for the Favour of an immediate and explicit Answer. I am,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

NATHAN. KANE.

LETTER

L E T T E R . II.

Mr. Lucas's Answer.

S I R,

I CAN not express my Surprise at the unexpected, and indeed undeserved Favour of a Letter from you. And, I am not less surpris'd, to find a Gentleman, whose good Sense I never heard called in question; take upon him to examine me so critically, as to demand to know, even [my secret Intentions; a sovereign Power never yet claimed in these Kingdoms, no; not, even, by any Alderman, within my Memory.

That I did oppose, and ever shall expose, the clandestine and injurious Purchase of the Mills of *Island Bridge*, though made by what you are pleas'd to call the City; is not unknown to you. That I oppos'd it in the Committee, where a certain Alderman forgot his natural, or affected, Mildness, and us'd all Means to get the City Seals put to a Deed of Purchase, of which he long and violently oppos'd the Reading, and in which upon reading many Blanks appear'd; and this without any sort of Authority. from the Assembly, or Countenance from Reason, Justice, or Law, you may well remember; and that I published some Account of this Proceeding that Year, or the next, and spoke of it in Publick, often since; you might have heard.

But, why the Friends of Alderman *Kane*, should have taken upon them to point him out the guilty Alderman, so as to affect his Fellow-Citizens and Acquaintance, is a Matter, for which I can not think myself accountable. To them, then, I must beg you will apply, and ask them, why they presume to tack your Name to the Story: For, they alone, I think, are to blame, who did so. I have prevented one of your Nephews doing it Publickly.

ly. And, I think, those, who have thus disturbed your conscious Innocence. and that calm Quiet and Ease, which virtuous Minds must ever enjoy ; are, undoubtedly, obliged to give you that Satisfaction, which you, I believe inadvertently, have demanded of me.

I must confess, I am very sorry for the remarkable Sensibility, upon some Occasions, shewn by the Board of Aldermen. You may remember, that upon mentioning the Tyranny of the Aldermen, so early, as the Reign of *Richard* the Third, in the Guild of Merchants, several Aldermen, though all of conscious Innocence, and inbred Quiet and Ease ; took Fire, and lost that Composure and Decency of Behaviour, becoming their Rank and Dignity.-----Sure the Board of Aldermen are not like the Courtiers, lashed at in a Ballad, I have met somewhere ;

*If you mention Vice or Bribe,
'Tis so pat to all the Tribe,
Each cries it was levelled at me.*

This, sure, can not be the Case. Therefore, Sir, you will excuse me, If I desire you will fix upon those, that tacked your Name to the Story.

And now, Sir, if you will favour me with a little Patience, you shall see, if I live ; a fair History of the Foundation and Constitution of this City, in general, with the several Breaches made therein ; and Particularly, of all the Transactions relating to that Purchase, with the Names of the Persons concerned, and their Titules, at full length. In this, I am necessitated to be particular, by the Behaviour of some of your Relations, which for the Sake of others, who are very high in my Esteem ; gives me no small Concern.

You
s c d

You must be sensible, that I could have had no View in the Opposition I gave you and the rest of the Board, in any instance, but to set the Affairs of the City, upon a just and legal footing; on which, you all know, it is not. If I were mistaken, you might and ought to have set me right, which you never did. I now wish you would permit it to be restored, or shew just Cause, why you will not; and then, all Degrees of Animosity, between the Board and me, shall for ever cease: For, if it appears, that I have been in an Error, I shall readily retract. But, till this is done, no dispassionate Man, for bringing all Truths, relative to the Points in Contest, to publick View; can blame,

S I R,

Ormond - Quay,
March 15, 1748.

Your humble Servant,

C. LUCAS.

P. S. I am sorry for your Indisposition; and if any Hints of the Regimen, that relieved me of that Disorder, would be satisfactory, you may command them.

If the Publication of this Letter will answer your Purpose, after taking the trouble of pointing and correcting it, you shall be welcome.

LETTER

L E T T E R III.

Alderman Kane, to Mr. Lucas.

S I R,

I Am perswaded, that no unprejudiced Person will think that I have been guilty of an improper Examination into your secret Intentions, by desiring you to declare whether I was that Alderman you charged with having influenced the City to give 3500*l.* for the Mills at *Island Bridge* (which you alledged to have been offered for 1800*l.*) in Order to secure a Sum of Money due to him by the Proprietor. This Request I must insist to have been both modest and reasonable, and that you were bound by all the Laws of Society and Justice to have given a direct and explicit Answer, instead of which I cannot but look upon that you sent me as an evasive one.

When you published that heavy Charge against a certain Alderman in your Speech at the Weavers Hall, you must or ought to have known the guilty Person, and tho' you might have continued easy while it stood as a Reflection against the Board at large, no Person being named, yet surely when you found that your Fellow-Citizens and mine had mistaken the Alderman you designed, and had fixed this black Crime upon one who was innocent, and that his good Name was thereby greatly wounded; Humanity, at least, common Justice, should have prompted you with the same Haste, that a Man would extinguish a Fire in his House, to have declared without being called upon, that I was not the Person you intended: hereby you would have done Justice to me, in leaving my Character where it was, and Justice to your Fellow-Citizens, in undeceiving them in a Point so tender to the Reputation of one of their Brethren.

You

You may oppose and expose what you call a clandestine and injurious Purchase of the Mills, when and in what Manner you please; at present I confine myself to the particular Charge to which my Name hath been annexed, and once more insist on an immediate Answer to that single Point, nor do I see any Reason, why you should expect me to wait for it, until you shall think fit, in the course of your Writings, to publish a History of these Transactions.

If you do not comply with this Request, I shall think myself obliged to acquaint the Publick with the Application I have made to you, and your Backwardness to do me Justice, and leave them to judge, if you continue to refuse, what Pretensions you have to the Character of Candor and Integrity to which you have made so loud a Claim. I am,

S I R,

Your Humble Servant,

March 18, 1748.

NATHAN. KANE.

I thank you, for your Offer to instruct me in your Regimen, but cannot think of going into so severe a one, especially at this Time of Life.

L E T T E R IV.

Mr. Lucas's Answer.

S I R,

AS I never had the Happiness of convincing, or being convinced by you, in any Point; so, I am not at all surprized, that what I should have said, in Answer to your first Letter, should be deemed evasive. You can not, therefore, expect,

pect, that I should take much Pains to convince you against the firm Persuasion, with which you are pleased to set out. For, I must now, suppose, that nothing less would satisfy you, than such a Declaration, as *Nathan* made to *David*, to wit; *Thou art the Man*. Though against, even such an one, were it made, your conscious Innocence and concommittant Quiet and Ease must prove a most powerful Shield.

Your last Letter brings two remarkable Things strongly to my View; though extremely different from each other. The one is, the Trial of Colonel *Lilburn*, before the high Commission Court; and the other, the Trial of the Validity, or rather of the Inconveniency of the Election of *Mr. La Touche* and me, into the Common Council. In the first, the upright Judges used all the artful Means that Perverseness and Malignity could prompt, to intangle an innocent Man in Words, of which, they were to assume the Construction; and so, asked him a Number of impertinent Questions, upon a groundless and illegal Indictment. In the Second, that awful, new-rule Tribunal, of which you are, by divine Permission, a Judge, used all its Might to put the Persons complained against, under the Necessity of proving a Negative; at the same Time, that the Complainants were not required, nor, indeed admitted, to go into any Proof of their Allegations. You did not, I presume, live when the former Court flourished; But, how great a Share you bore in the Proceedings of the latter, you may recollect, as well, as I.

Now, Sir, raise your Brethren of the Board, to an high Commission Court, for my Trial; as well, as for other purposes, if you will; provided I may be allowed the Liberty, to which all Men, that are accused of real, or imaginary Crimes, are intitled. Set forth your Indictment, give it your
utmost

utmost Proof, and then, I shall make my Defence. Do not look upon me, as one of the many weak, innocent, tho' wretched Slaves, that are daily traped, by impudent and corrupt modern Justices, who lead the miserable, unwary Dupes, to their Ruin, by fundry subtil and designing Questions. Every Alderman, or pretended Alderman in the Set, and who, or how many they may be, is impossible for me to determine, have, now, an Equal Right to question me, with you. But, why you should, notwithstanding your Conscious Innocence; single yourself out, as this guilty Alderman, is hardly consonant with that Prudence, that has born you, thus far, well through Life.

I remember a great Noise, once, made, by my speaking of a Jacobite Baronet, in a publick Assembly, without naming, or glancing at any Individual. Many were conscious, their Friend was struck at. Was I to be accountable for Men's pointing out themselves, or their Friends? Would you not have laughed at any Baronet of your Acquaintance, that should have asked, if he were the Person meant?

I must tell you once, for all, Sir, that your Threats and Entreaties move me alike upon this Occasion, as they did, when we were in the Common Council together; and that, till I am ready to make my positive Charge, fully and publicly, you shall not learn from me the particular Alderman, I glanced at, as the chief Agent in that shameful Purchase.

Let me further inform you, that I have made an unalterable Resolution to expose, and, if possible to bring to condign Punishment, all the Enemies of our Constitution. Such, I deem all those who incroach upon the Rights and Liberties of the Community, without a proper Warrant from Justice, or Law. This Charge, I have long since made
upon

upon the Board of Aldermen, and they have never acquitted themselves, in any Instance. I am, therefore, determined, since they are resolved to hold and persevere in their Usurpations, to detect their Abuses to the Publick, in which Prosecution, I do not fear being able to make the Twenty-four appear, as hateful in *Dublin*, as the Thirty Tyrants were in *Athens*.

Whether, or how far your imaginary Charge against me, be right, or wrong; true, or false, in the Whole; or in part, I shall not at this Time, think myself bound to inform you; nor whether I found my Fellow Citizens mistaken in the Aldermen I designed, or not. Your Friends and you take this to yourselves!----- You must, then, answer and acquit yourselves. If you and all your Friends unanimously cried out, that a certain Apothecary, a certain Citizen, or a certain Master of a Corporation, did any one wicked, or unjust Thing; I think you would justly laugh at any Particular, who should be so galled, as to ask you, Did you mean him?

Now, Sir, cry out to the Public as soon as you please. Inform them of your Application to one, on whom you have no Right to call; and let them judge whether I have done you Injustice, or you attempt to do me a Wrong. My Claim to Candor and Integrity, is not laid in Words, only; I shall let my Actions speak for me. And, if there can be such a Public, as will censure me for refusing to answer such particular Quæries, as may be put to me, by every individual Lord Lieutenant, Lord Deputy, or Justice, Bishop, Judge, Alderman, Sheriff, or other Magistrate, or Minister, whose Corruptions, in general, I have endeavoured to expose, I dare deny their Authority, as I should do that of any other unjust Judges, or Usurpers, and justly despise their groundless Censure.

But,

But, Sir, it is plain, that since our first ill fated Acquaintance, you have been determined to oppose, and, even to misunderstand me. It is, now, too late for me to expect to move you to think better of me.-----In your Post-script, you say, I offer to instruct you in my Regiment!-----That would have been a daring Attempt indeed. But, I never could have thought any Regiment of mine, physical, or political, could suit your Constitution, or Disposition exactly; therefore, I never was in any Respect, so vain, as to presume to instruct, whatever I might to advise you.-----You see, our Misunderstanding is likely to increase, and since we want that Simirality of Morals, or Principles, that is necessary to Concord; Correspondence can answer no more useful, or satisfactory Purposes, than our former Meetings and Conferences produced. Besides, my Head and Hands are, at present, otherwise engaged. So,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

Ormond - Quay,
March 19, 1748.

C. LUCA.

F I N I S.

Speedily will be published, by the Printer hereof,

AN

ADDRESS

TO THE

FREEMEN and FREEHOLDERS

Of the City of DUBLIN.

WHEREIN

The Insinuations, false Representations, and unjust Aspersions, contained in Mr. *Lucas's* eighteenth Address, and reflecting upon Alderman *Kane's* Character in the Purchase of the Mills at *Island Bridge*, are set

In a natural, true, and just Light,
and at this particular Juncture recommended to the serious and dispassionate Examination of all the Citizens of Dublin.

4 AP 54

By Alderman NATHANIEL KANE.

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